

THE AMERICAN TYPE CULTURE COLLECTION

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The Culture Collection has been maintained for seven years by the John McCormick Institute for Infectious Diseases under the general direction of an incorporated committee of seven members, representing interested societies and the McCormick Institute.

The growth of the Collection in this time is shown in table 1.

TABLE 1

YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 15	1925	1926	1927	1928	1929	1930	1931
Cultures available.....	750	1,193	1,500	2,000	2,272	2,326	2,375
Orders filled.....	360	558	613	1,022	1,127	1,294	1,023
Cultures sent out.....	1,540	2,715	3,897	4,761	5,080	5,253	5,019

The funds through which the Collection has been maintained have been obtained from the sale of cultures, The Society of American Bacteriologists, and from a grant from the Rockefeller Foundation. The grant from the Rockefeller Foundation has expired and under the present economic conditions the Committee has been unable to obtain a renewal of this grant or to secure funds from other sources. It has been necessary to reduce expenses by decreasing the staff, reducing salaries and exercising other economies. This has made it necessary to reduce the Collection somewhat by eliminating duplicates and some of the cultures for which there is little call will be placed in the care of volunteer curators.

The price of cultures has been increased from one to two dollars. The committee has taken this action very reluctantly and as the alternative of abandoning the Collection. The income for the present year will be limited to \$400 from the Bacteriological

Society, \$400 interest on bonds in which surplus funds were invested, and receipts from the sale of cultures. If the latter item is equal to the average of the past two years, it will be possible to balance the budget without decreasing the usefulness of the Collection. In the early years of the Collection the sale of cultures was confined almost entirely to those used for teaching purposes. Its present wider usefulness is shown by the increasing call for cultures for research and industrial purposes. This has included the fungi, of which nearly 350 cultures were sold in the past year. Contact with special collections of bacteria, yeasts and other microorganisms greatly enlarges the variety of cultures the Collection is able to furnish its patrons.